

The claims defining the invention are as follows:

1. A bi-phasic culture medium including  
a solid phase containing an egg slope or agar slope; and  
a liquid phase including a serum and a peptone.
- 5 2. A medium according to claim 1 wherein the solid phase is an egg slope.
3. A medium according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the serum is horse serum or rabbit serum.
4. A medium according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the peptone is peptone or bactopectone.
- 10 5. A medium according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the liquid phase includes a phosphate buffered saline having a pH of from about 6.8 to about 7.8.
6. A medium according to claim 5 containing up to about 98vol% phosphate buffered saline in the liquid phase.
7. A medium according to any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the liquid phase contains  
15 about 1 to about 15vol% of serum.
8. A medium according to any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein the peptone is an about 1 to about 40w/w% bactopectone solution.
9. A medium according to any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein the liquid phase contains about 1 to about 15vol% of the peptone.
- 20 10. A medium according to any one of claims 1 to 9 further including an antibiotic.
11. A medium according to claim 8, wherein the antibiotic is selected from the group consisting of erythromycin, penicillin, streptomycin, clindamycin, cephalixin, vancomycin and rifampicin.
12. A bi-phasic culture medium, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference  
25 to any one of the examples and/or the accompanying drawing.
13. A kit including a container containing the medium according to any one of the preceding claims together with a container containing rice starch.
14. A kit according to claim 13 which is contained in a compartmentalized specimen bag.
- 30 15. A kit according to claim 13 or 14, further including a utensil for transferring a specimen into the container containing the medium.
16. A kit according to any one of claims 13 to 15 including an additional container for containing a specimen.
17. A kit according to any one of claims 13 to 16 wherein the container containing rice  
35 starch is a sachet.

18. A kit, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any one of the examples and/or the accompanying drawing.
19. A method of detecting the presence of protozoa in a specimen, said method including
  - 5 adding to the medium according to any one of claims 1 to 12, said specimen, rice starch and where necessary, an antibiotic,
  - allowing the medium to incubate for a time period so as to cultivate protozoa,
  - examining at least a portion of the incubated medium to detect the presence of protozoa.
- 10 20. A method of detecting protozoa in faecal matter, said method including adding to the medium according to any one of claims 1 to 12, faecal matter, rice starch and where necessary, an antibiotic,
  - allowing the medium to incubate for a time period so as to cultivate intestinal protozoa,
  - 15 examining at least a portion of the incubated medium to detect the presence of said protozoa.
21. A method according to claim 19 or 20, wherein the protozoa detected is one or more of *Dientamoeba fragilis*, *Blastocystis hominis*, *E. histolytica/dispar*, *Entamoeba* or *Iodamoeba*, *Iodamoeba butschlii*, *Endolimax nana*, *Entamoeba coli*, or *Entamoeba*
  - 20 *hartmanni*.
22. A method according to claim 21 wherein the protozoa detected is *Dientamoeba fragilis*.
23. A method according to any one of claims 19 to 22 wherein the medium is incubated for a period of up to about 4 days.
- 25 24. A method according to any one of claims 19 to 23 wherein the medium is incubated for up to about 48 hours.
25. A method according to any one of claims 19 to 23 wherein additional antibiotic and/or rice starch are added after about 24 hours of incubation.
26. A method according to any one of claims 19 to 25 wherein the medium is incubated
  - 30 at a temperature in the range of 36°C to 38°C.
27. A method according to any one of claims 19 to 26 wherein the portion of the incubated medium is examined microscopically.
28. A method according to any one of claims 19 to 27 wherein the antibiotic is erythromycin.

29. A method according to any one of claims 19 to 28 wherein the portion is or includes sediment.

30. A method of detecting protozoa, said method substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any one of the examples and/or the accompanying  
5 drawing.